

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-19 are pending in this application. This communication amends claims 1 and 10.

It is noted that the proposed drawing corrections submitted in the communications filed on March 5, 2002, September 11, 2002, and May 9, 2003, still have not been acknowledge in the present Office Action. The corrections involved relocating the reference arrow indications for reference character "95" in FIGS. 2 and 3 so that the arrows correctly identify the snap ring element. Another copy of these proposed drawings corrections is enclosed for the examiner's convenience. Applicant respectfully requests a decision with regard to these corrections in the next Office action.

It is noted that claims 14-19 stand allowed.

It is noted that claims 6, 7, and 11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,315,435 to Hamilton *et al.* (Hamilton) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,346,317 to Williams. The Office Action takes the position that Hamilton discloses all the features of claim 1, except for the rotation limiting washer, which is taught by Williams. However, Hamilton does not teach or suggest a positioning assembly secured within a housing as called for

in claim 1. Hamilton describes a searchlight having a controllable lighthouse 2 which appears to include a lamp disposed in a housing (see Fig. 1 and Figs. 2a and 2b). The first motor 6, the first gearbox 8, the second motor 10, the second gearbox 12 and the control housing 4, are all mounted on a common base 14, not in the housing as claimed.

The disk 48 (washer) taught by Williams has a plurality of radially-extending fingers 56 which biasingly engage plate 38 to put a drag on the rotation of the plate so that the searchlight can be inverted (column 2, lines 31-67 of Williams). Claim 1, on the other hand, has been amended to call for a washer that limits the rotation of the assembly “to a predetermined rotational angle.” The disk taught by Williams does not limit the rotation of the plate to a predetermined rotational angle, it merely puts a drag on the rotation of the plate. Accordingly, Hamilton in view of Williams fail to teach or suggest all the features now recited in claim 1.

The arguments set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 1 also apply to dependent claims 2-5, 10, 12 and 13.


In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully urged.

Claim 10 has been amended to be consistent with the language added by amendment to claim 1.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-7 and 10-19 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or other matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

No fee is believed to be required for this communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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